

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the noted formal objection, Figures 16 and 17A-17E have been amended to add Prior Art legends.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-11, 13-16, 18-22, and 24 were rejected as anticipated by KACZMARCZYK et al. 6,775,269.

Claims 3, 12, and 17 were rejected as obvious over this reference in view of RAO et al. 6,674,756.

Claims 5 and 23 were rejected as obvious over this reference in view of the disclosed prior art.

No claims were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

There were no other formal matters outstanding.

In studying the Official Action, it seems clear that the claims have been read rather broadly. In view of this, the previously pending claims have been amended to more specifically recite the inventive apparatus and method.

For example, as to claim 1, the inventive apparatus comprises a packet search table 2 as illustrated by application Figure 1. The packet search table, in turn, is recited as comprising a plurality of registration tables 22-25, a search means 20, and a transfer information address table 21. The structural arrangement of each of these and the linking relationships are now recited with more specificity.

The prior art is not believed to teach or suggest such an apparatus. More specifically, none of the applied references is found to include such a packet search table, including the recited constituent parts in combination.

Further, dependent claim 2 has been amended to include that the invention further includes a search process circuit that receives a packet to be transferred and issues a packet search information to the packet search table. The claim further recites that the search means comprises a content-addressable memory with stored search pattern entries that satisfy different packet search information. The cooperation between the recited components is detailed.

As with claim 1, these features of the invention are not found in any of the applied references, taken individually or in any reasonable combination thereof.

The remaining dependent claims 3-9 have not been significantly amended but are nonetheless believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable claim.

Independent claim 10 has also been amended taking into account the applied art and to recite the invention with more specificity. Registering function entries in a function table, registering address information in a transfer information address table, and linking these to access transfer information stored in registration tables are now recited. This combination of method

steps is not seen in the applied references. Accordingly, independent claim 10 is believed to be patentable.

Dependent claim 11 recites the function table being a content-addressable memory.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite the invention by explicitly reciting the advance preparation of the function table set, the registration tables, and the transfer information address table. These tables, taken together with their linking relationship, are believed to be both novel and non-obvious over the applied prior art.

New dependent claim 25 recites specific registration tables as disclosed and illustrated with reference to Figure 1.

In summary, the presently pending claims are believed to patentably recite the invention in that the claims have been amended to include features of the invention believed to be both novel and non-obvious over the prior art, and in particular over the applied references.

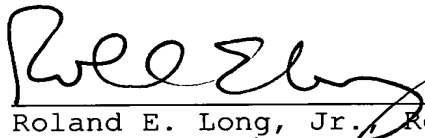
In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Please charge the claim fee of \$50 for one extra dependent claim added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following items:

- replacement sheets for Figures 16 and 17A-17E

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Prior Art legends are added to Figures 16 and 17A-17E.